

**Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty
Full Commission & Working Group Members Meeting**

September 16, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

In Chicago:

Andre Ashmore – Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Brianna Baker-Carvell – Illinois Department of Corrections
Brandi Collins – Safer Foundation
Shelley Davis – Harris School of Public Policy
Robyn Gabel – Illinois General Assembly
Michael Golden – Illinois Education Foundation
Grace Hou – Illinois Department of Human Services
Toni Irving – Office of the Governor
Cemere James – Illinois Action for Children
Lanita Koster – Illinois State Board of Education
Jim Lewis – Chicago Community Trust
Amalia Martinez – Illinois Department of Human Rights
Lory Mishra – Office of the Governor
Sid Mohn – Heartland Alliance
Marisol Morales – Latino Family Commission
Jennifer Becker Mouchine – Chicago Jobs Council
Bob Palmer – Housing Action Illinois
Wendy Pollack – Shriver Center
Amy Rynell – Heartland Alliance
Doug Schenkelberg – Heartland Alliance
Dan Schwick – Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Maria Whelan – Illinois Action for Children
Cheri Neil Detzig – Zion Township Supervisor
Andy Davis – Illinois Student Assistance Commission

In Springfield:

Jim Hires – Eastern Illinois Food Bank
Al Ridley – Illinois Coalition for Community Services
Mike Jones – Illinois Department of Health & Family Services
Andy Kulczycki – Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County

Presentation on Poverty Statistics, including review of new Census Data - Doug Schenkelberg

Overview of Steering Committee Activities since last full meeting – Sid Mohn

Since the last meeting, the Steering Committee has been working to boil down the master list of recommendations. In doing this, the Steering Committee considered three main factors:

- *Cost* – cost was a particularly important factor in terms of making decisions about short versus long-term implementation
- *Political realities* - the Steering Committee looked for non-controversial, politically palatable items for short-term implementation
- *Impact* – the Steering Committee selected those recommendations that had been estimated to have the greatest impact on extreme poverty.

Overall, the Steering Committee tried to focus on recommendations that reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty, rather than simply alleviating the negative experience of poverty. An important caveat, however, is that data from the Urban Institute modeling process is not yet available and could significantly change the way the recommendations have been organized, based on which recommendations the Urban Institute finds to have the greatest impact.

Small Group Discussion of Draft of Organized Recommendations – Al Ridley

During small group discussion, attendees should consider whether the recommendations that have been included in the draft are consistent with a few criteria:

- Is the recommendation consistent with human rights?
- Does it impact people in extreme poverty?
- Is it practical and doable?

Attendees broke into several small groups to discuss the draft recommendations – a number of points were raised as a result of the small group discussions:

- The Commission should include more recommendations around prevention and education, recommendations aimed at improving the infrastructure for preventing poverty.
- A number of groups made recommendations to move recommendations from long-term to short-term, or vice-versa
- The Commission should make sure to align our conversation with those of other groups, and piggyback on effective models that are currently in use. We should also capitalize on the work already being done by others in terms of advocacy.
- Amy Rynell: Could the recommendation on a state supplement to SSI potentially make its way back into the draft recommendations? This recommendation would be expensive but has a potentially very large impact. We may also want

- emphasize wage theft recommendations, because these are very doable and have a large impact on low-wage workers.
- Marisol Morales: Including recommendations about early childhood education would be a good way to have a larger preventative impact.
 - Wendy Pollack: We should remember that many of the long-term recommendations need to be started now if they are to have an impact by 2015
 - Maria Whelan: Remember to re-word some of the more aggressive recommendations so that people respond well
 - Sid Mohn: We should stay focused on our goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015, but we also need to make a statement about not stopping there and continuing to work on reducing poverty

Small Group Discussion of Advocacy Plan – Maria Whelan

As small groups, develop some ideas about what our advocacy strategy around the recommendations might look like. What can we do as organizations and as individuals?

The small groups presented a number of ideas, including:

- Develop a media plan
- Prioritize a small number of recommendations for emphasis, especially for emphasis in media
- Piggy-back on advocacy work already being done by other groups; collaborate with these groups in developing further advocacy efforts, as well as in order to get testimonials and other stories
- Determine who will coordinate advocacy effort
- Create a public marketing campaign that emphasizes why members of the public should care
- Conduct voter registration campaigns among those in extreme poverty
- Present to policy makers in preparation for next legislative session
- Identify recommendations that have federal lens and need federal advocacy
- Identify and highlight successes that have already been achieved
- Develop frame that presents recommendations broadly enough to get bipartisan support
- Emphasize that recommendations address poverty state-wide
- Work on getting endorsers, in order to improve traction
- Include endorsers that have not been tapped in the past, including faith-based organizations, rotary clubs, etc.
- Tie release to Thanksgiving
- Develop two different advocacy strategies in order to be prepared for potential new government in November

Next Steps

Heartland Alliance will coordinate advocacy efforts, but will need support from all other organizations.

The goal is to release the plan in Mid-November, during veto session.

The Steering Committee will work with the Urban Institute on modeling recommendations for the final plan.

The Steering Committee will create a new draft of recommendations and schedule another meeting of the full Commission in order to approve the new draft.